

REGION 6 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TOPIC: Johnny M Mine Area, San Mateo, McKinley County, New Mexico Site

DATE: March 7, 2011

CONTACT: Jon Rinehart-Warren Zehner

PURPOSE/ACTION NEEDED: Relocation of a property owner next abandoned to the Johnny M uranium mine

DEADLINE DATE: March 7, 2011

BACKGROUND:

EPA has completed a preliminary radiation removal assessment sampling on the (b) (6) property. This property is located approximately 0.3 mile west of the former Johnny M Mine uranium underground mine. This mine was actively mine from 1972-1982. It went through a period of closure and cleanup from 1982-1993. This mine was operated by Ranchers Exploration and Development. Ranchers as merged with Hecla Mining Company in 1984. The ASPECT was used in October 2009 in this area to delineate radiation in the area of uranium mines in the Grants Mineral Belt. The Johnny M Mine was identified as having high levels of radiation. We contacted the property owner about conducting a radiation structure assessment on his property, but he declined access. In November 2010, we were contacted by the NMED about a homeowner who lived near the Johnny M Mine. NMED had conducted a Pre CERCLIS Screen on the Johnny M Mine.(August 2010) We conducted the structure assessment in November 2010. This survey indicated high radiation levels around the house. We later did testing in the house and found high levels of radiation on the walls. We conducted radon sampling in the home. The results of the three radon detectors were 18.6, 19.8, and 19.5 pCi/l. The action level is 4 pCi/l on an annual level. Additional testing was done on the property. High levels were found adjacent to the two corrals. These corrals contain 22 horses and ten cows. The NMED sampled the drinking water well. The samples were received on March 1, 2011. This well exceeds the MCL for gross alpha 17.3 pCi/l (standard 15pCi/l) and Radium 226/228 6.0 pCi/l (standard 5 pCi/l).

CURRENT STATUS:

An Action Memo is being drafted to address the concerns on this property. This removal action will entail removing contaminated soil from around the home and around the corrals, abating the radon in the home, eliminating radiation in the home, and abating the radon in the home.

ENVIRONMENTAL/PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS:

High levels of radiation are present around the home and the corrals. High radon levels are in the home. High radiation levels are in the home. The only source of water for the resident and the livestock is contaminated with radiation.

TECHNICAL CONCERNS:

- Additional sampling will need to be done on the property.

REGULATORY/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

- A Time Critical Action Memo will be ready for signature on April 1, 2011.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

- Most residents are eager to have uranium mining and good paying jobs return to the Grants Area. This area is economically depressed.
- Activities are being were coordinated with NMED, New Mexico Department of Health, and ATSDR.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the homeowner and his livestock be removed from the property until a removal can be complete done this property.



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